(c) what is the total demand of gas in the northern region and whether the same would be met satisfactorily; and

(d) if so, by when and what will be the total cost of this whole project during 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The current carrying capacity of the pipeline is 18.2 MMSCMD. The capacity of the pipeline is to be increased to 33.4 MMSCMD whereafter gas is proposed to be supplied to units located in Gadepan, Babrala, Shahjahanpur, Bawana, Faridabad, etc.

(c) and (d) Allocations, or assessment of requirement, are not made on a regional basis. With the upgradation of the HBJ pipeline, the allocations made in the region are likely to be satisfactorily met. Expenditure on the upgradation project during the current financial year is estimated to be approximately Rs. 370 crores, including a foreign exchange expenditure of Rs. 210 crores approximately.

Proposal to pump out the additional crude oil

346. SHRI BHADRESHWAR GOHAIN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to pump out the additional crude oil from Assam through a loop line; and

(b) if so, what is the reason for proposing to pump out the crude oil in spite of strong protest by the people of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of LPG Cylinders in Bombay

347. SHRI E. BALANANDAN :

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO :

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that LPG dealers of Bombay City due to riots situations are creating artificial shortage to charge more from the customers; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) There was some interruption in the supply of LPG during the period of disturbances/curfew in Bombay. Despatches were made even on Sundays and holidays to ease the situation.

Mass Exodus of the top Level Executives

348. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there has been a mass exodus of the top level executives from ONGC as reported in the Economic Times dated 6-4-93;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that most of them have joined Multinational companies engaged in oil exploration; and

(c) whether Government would consider imposing a ban on top level ONGC executives, taking up private employment particularly in the oil exploration sector as this would give the MNCs undue leverage in negotiations for contracts and assignments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA : (a) There is no such exodus.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The provisions in the ONGC regulations governing employment after retirement are felt to be adequate.

Cylinders Stolen from the Godowns

349. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cylinders stolen from the godowns of L.P.G. dealers during the last three years State-wise; company-wise;

(b) the number of thefts detected and property recovered;

(c) if so, whether the cylinders were insured by the owning oil Co. if so, at what rate and the amount realised from the underwriter; and

(d) whether it is a fact that oil companies are charging Rs. 1500/- from the dealers for the stolen cylinder despite lodging F.I.R. with police?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) A statement is given as annexure [*See* Appendix CL XVII, Annexure No. 6]

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Cylinders which are in possession of the LPG distributors are not insured by the Oil Companies. However, distributors normally take insurance cover for cylinders in stock with them.

(d) Wherever theft is established, recovery is made at the rate of Rs. 550/- per cylinder. In all others cases of loss etc., recovery is made @ Rs. 1500/- per cylinder.

Unauthorised gas connections

350. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases registered against unauthorised gas connection holders, equipment manufacturers under LPG Control Order, during last three years State-wise, oil company-wise;

(b) the total number of cylinders and equipments confiscated, State-wise and oil company-wise; and

(c) what is the value of the confiscated material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) A statement is given in the annexure [*See* Appendix CL XVII, Annexure No. 7]

(c) The total value of the confiscated material amounts to Rs. 9.23 lakhs (approx.)

Impact of rise in price of crude oil

351. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the international price of crude oil has increased by $2 to $ 20 a barrel recently;

(b) if so, what is its estimated impact on the India's crude oil imports vis-a-vis oil pool account;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the prices of petroleum products to curtail deficit in oil pool account; and

(d) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The monthly